

SBAP FAQs – Credentialing

National Certificate in School Psychology

1. Is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist certification an acceptable credential for Medical Assistance (MA) billing through the School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP)?

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, school psychologists are [certified](#) by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The national certification on its own does not meet the requirements for MA billing. However, individuals certified by the National Association of School Psychologists will be granted the highest level certification available from PDE as a school psychologist ([22 Pa. Code § 49.65\(d\)](#)). Documentation of this PDE certification should be maintained by the LEA as verification that the provider is eligible to bill for his/her services as a school psychologist as described in Section 3.12 of the [SBAP Handbook](#).

2. Is the individual with this national certification automatically granted a PDE Level II certification as a school psychologist? If no, must the individual apply for the PDE certification?

No, the individual must apply for PDE certification. The individual must be issued the PDE certification before billing for services in the SBAP.

Teacher of the Hearing Impaired

3. Does a Teacher of the Hearing Impaired with a Master’s degree in an unrelated field meet the requirements of a qualified provider for SBAP?

No. Section 3.3 of the [SBAP Handbook](#) states that a teacher of the hearing-impaired must meet one of the following requirements:

- Has a professional certificate issued by the Council on Education of the Deaf (CED);
or
- Has a Master’s degree, from an accredited college or university, with a major in teaching of the hearing-impaired or in a related field with comparable course work and training.

A PDE-certified teacher of the hearing-impaired ([CSPG No. 62](#)) must meet the above requirements to be considered a qualified provider for SBAP.

PDE-Certified School Social Worker

4. Does a PDE-certified School Social Worker meet the requirements of a qualified provider for SBAP?

No. Section 3.13 of the [SBAP Handbook](#) states that a provider of social work and counseling services must meet one of the following requirements:

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- Licensed Social Worker
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

A PDE-certified school social worker ([CSPG No. 201](#)) must also hold one of the licenses listed above to meet the requirements of a qualified provider for SBAP.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

5. Does an individual holding a DNP meet the requirements to sign the Medical Practitioner Authorization Form (MPAF) for SBAP services?

No, the DNP is a degree, not a job title, and earning a DNP does not make an individual a physician, nor does it inherently indicate that an individual is working in direct patient care. Please see this [helpful chart](#) of authorizing providers and the services they may order/prescribe on the MPAF, which is available on the [SBAP Website](#).

Additionally, Section 4.2 of the [SBAP Handbook](#) includes an exhaustive list of all providers currently able to authorize the medical necessity of SBAP services on the MPAF when enrolled in the MA Program. If the individual with a DNP has passed the board examinations to receive their CRNP license, they may enroll as a MA Provider Type 09 – CRNP, which is already an approved provider type for signing the MPAF for all services excluding assistive technology devices, PCAs, and physician services, provided there is a collaborative agreement with a licensed physician in Pennsylvania to order, refer or prescribe services, as described in this section.

Personal Care Services – Education Requirements

6. Is the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma acceptable documentation for the high school diploma requirement?

Yes. The Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma (CSSD) is a high school equivalency credential available to Pennsylvania residents who do not possess a high school diploma and who have met criteria specified in the Pennsylvania Code ([22 Pa. Code § 4.72](#)).

7. Is a Highly Qualified Paraprofessional certificate acceptable in lieu of a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma?

No. This certificate does not meet the equivalency of a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma. Documentation of education requirements as set out in Section 3.8 of the [SBAP Handbook](#) must be maintained for an individual to be considered a qualified provider.

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Personal Care Services – Certification in First Aid and CPR

8. Are online CPR certifications acceptable for PCAs?

The Department of Human Services is not aware of any currently available, fully-online CPR preparation courses that result in valid certifications. Acceptable documentation for a PCA to bill for services in the SBAP is a CPR certification card that includes:

- individual's name,
- valid begin and end dates,
- name of the organization granting the certification, and
- an authorized signature.

Online courses for CPR certification may not include the opportunity for the individual to demonstrate skill proficiency to a certified instructor; therefore, the course may not meet requirements for workplace safety certification. Blended learning courses require that the individual complete both the online and in-person portions of the course before a valid certification card is issued.

9. Would a signed letter from the First Aid and CPR trainer meet the documentation requirements for PCA certification?

No. Documentation of CPR and First Aid certification must come from the granting agency with valid start and end dates of certification. Additional information about Documentation of Credentials Maintained Onsite can be found within Section 3.8 of the [SBAP Handbook](#).